



June is homeownership month. As part of Homeownership month The Holt Neighborhood had a project event. Families up and down Schaer Street open their homes. Some had hotdogs, fish, drinks and others just invited you in to see their homes.

A new home on Schaer Street was just completed so the open house brought T.V. and Newspaper Media. A Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher homeowner, Betty ~, invited us in to see her home. She moved to Schaer Street November 2004. She told us of how she became a homeowner on this once crime ridden street. She said that the day she moved in she went to meet all of her neighbors. She named her neighbors one at a time, she told stories of how nice they were, how she loved them all and how nice all of the young people were.

Betty moved to North Little Rock Arkansas seven years ago. She had lived in her brother's house for several years. When he married he needed to have the home for his new family so Betty applied for Section 8 Housing and moved to North Little Rock.

One night Betty attended a church function and the speaker was talking about asking GOD for the needs of your heart. Betty had never owned a home and thought I barely make \$15,800 a year and know I can not get a house.

Within the next few weeks Betty met another lady from her church; she was a Real Estate Agent. She encouraged Betty to apply for a home loan. Betty was very surprised when she was approved because she had good credit she was approved for \$65,000.

Betty looked at several homes. The homes her Real Estate Agent was showing her were not the home she had dreamed of.

One morning her Real Estate Friend called and wanted to show her a house. Betty was not really up to seeing any more, older run down homes. But when she arrived at 1704 Schaer she stopped in her tracts in front of her was the new home she had dreamed of.

Another couple was also waiting to see the house. She just stood there and began to pray. She asked GOD "is this what you want me to have"? She began talking to herself; I can't afford this new beautiful home at \$86,436.00, show me the way lord. She started up the sidewalk with each step she took she said yes God I hear you, yes I hear you and by the time she got to the porch and the first step she said yes Lord I claim this **Cabin**.

As she walked to the door she was saying yes this is my cabin. She opened the door slowly and looked in this new home with beautiful new carpet she said yes lord this is my home I claim it. As she walked into the kitchen she fell in love with the beautiful kitchen cabinets, new a stove, new refrigerator, dishwasher and the most beautiful ceramic tile she had ever seen.

Each room just filled her heart with joy. Off the master bedroom was a huge master bathroom that was the size of a small bedroom.

As she and her agent were leaving they noticed that the young couple was still waiting on their Real Estate Agency. Betty said to them I have talked to the man and he wants me to have this house, I have claimed it and you can count it as sold. The couple smiled, turned around and left.

Never the less Betty claimed this house and now we had to see how we could close the deal. All of the partners came to the table; ARGENTA, Community Development, Federal Home Loan Bank Of Dallas, Met Bank, Pulaski Mortgage, US Bank, North Little Rock Housing, Gardner Memorial Methodist Church and several other organizations.

When all was said and done; the house was \$86,436.00 and the above organizations came to the table with grants. Betty's home now cost her \$60,505.00. With insurance and taxes her house payment is \$543.05 a month she pays \$520 and Section 8 pays \$23. Because Betty works a 10 month contract the NLRHA Section 8 Program pays 100% of her rent for July and August.

The North Little Rock Housing Authority's Homeownership Program has one big goal in mind. They want to build wealth in the families.

Twenty-two other Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Homeowners have wonderful stories just like Betty's. The NLR Housing Authority knows that acting alone can not build wealth in families but partnerships with other organizations can make dreams come true.